

## Communication from the National Coordinator

*Dear MACIS Members,  
A special welcome goes out to our new members who joined MACIS over the past months. April was a particularly busy month for the Secretariat as we launched the GAVI Civil Society Strengthening Project, had extensive meetings with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, recruited two new staff members and reviewed our website.*



## Civil Society Immunization Platform Launch



On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 MACIS launched the Civil Society Immunization Platform at Hotel Africana as part of African Vaccination Week activities.

Over 35 existing and new MACIS members as well as media and key immunization stakeholders from GAVI and the Ministry of health joined the secretariat in celebrating the launch of the CSO Immunization Platform under the MACIS umbrella. The Platform is part of the GAVI Civil Society Strengthening Project, which aims at building a sustainable network platform for civil society to engage in immunization and health system strengthening processes, thereby making life-saving vaccines available to more people.

Dr Maryse Dugue, GAVI Country Representative for Uganda, praised CSOs for delivering powerful and cost-effective health interventions. She highlighted the critical role of CSOs in advocacy and social mobilisation,



particularly with the introduction of new vaccines in the coming years.

In her speech delivered by the acting Director of Health Services Dr

Lwamafa, the Hon Minister of Health, Dr Odoia, launched the CSO Immunization Platform and congratulated MACIS on providing able leadership to CSOs in Uganda, bringing together different civil society groups to work towards improving the immunization coverage in Uganda.

The Secretariat is assisting members in finalising the governance structure of the Platform and in identifying Immunization Champion CSOs in each district as well as members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG will play a key role in identifying and developing solutions to Uganda's immunization challenges from a civil society perspective. MACIS will advocate at the national level on the advice provided by the TAG.

The secretariat is still seeking nominations for district Immunization Champions and TAG members by the end of May. The ToRs for these positions will be made available on our website.

The full report on the launch as well as Dr Odoia's speech will also be made available on the MACIS website.



**We are re-launching our MACIS website [www.macisuganda.org](http://www.macisuganda.org) this month with new information, services and inter-active capabilities. Have a look!**

### Promoting our members

As we redesign our website with a new look and inter-active capabilities, we want to give MACIS members the opportunity to promote their organisation. Send us your logo and/or website address for your organisation and we will display it on the MACIS website and include a link to your organisation's website. If you have neither a logo nor a website, we will still include your details in a searchable database, where readers can find out about the great work that MACIS members are doing throughout Uganda.

### Robert Carr Fund - Call for Proposals

The Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks is calling for proposals from global and regional networks addressing HIV related issues. More information can be found at <http://www.robertcarrfund.org/grantees/request-for-proposals/>. Proposals are due on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

While HIV is not MACIS' area of expertise, we are happy to partner with other networks in support of their submissions for this request for proposals.

### New Staff at MACIS Secretariat

#### Victor Kaahwa - Head of Finance, Administration and Operations



Victor has recently joined as Head of Finance, Administration and Operations in charge of MACIS' essential operational systems. His over 12 years of experience in finance, compliance, procurement and audit operations will ensure that MACIS develops and maintains

sustainable operational processes.

Victor has previously worked with Action Aid International and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), handling grants from USAID, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF. He has graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) majoring in Accounts and holds a Diploma in Business Studies and a Certificate in Procurement, Supply Chain and Contract Management from Uganda Management Institute.

#### Elizabeth Kasujja - Program/Communications Officer

Elizabeth recently joined MACIS as the Program/Communications Officer to assist in the management of network projects and lead the communication with our members. She will develop new channels and innovative ideas to engage with MACIS members and advocate for MACIS as well as its members at the strategic level.



Elizabeth comes with experience in health marketing and advocacy for maternal and child rights. She previously worked for the East African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) as an Information Manager. Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Chemistry (Hons)

and completed additional courses in immunization, malaria, HIV/AIDS and maternal health.

Find full profiles for all MACIS staff on our website.

### Staff Exits

Obed Atuhaire and Grace Orikiriza have left the MACIS Secretariat for other organizations. We would like to thank them for their invaluable contribution at the secretariat, and we wish them the best in their new positions.

### Mosquito Net Distribution

The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched the 2013 campaign to distribute 21 million mosquito nets on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in Soroti. The launch was presided over by His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Out of 21 million nets, 6.3 million nets have arrived in Uganda, been tested and have been cleared for distribution.

The MoH advised that the nets will be distributed through District Task Forces with support from UPDF and the Police Force.

The MoH has partnered with John Hopkins University (JHU) as the lead agency to coordinate the net distribution exercise, for which \$19.5m have been allocated. JHU will subcontract Malaria Consortium to assist with this task.

Distribution will commence in the Eastern region, followed by Central, then Western and Southern regions and finally in the Northern region by November 2013.

MACIS is a member of the National Coordination Committee for the net distribution campaign.



## Health Sector Recruitment

In 2012 Uganda's Parliament approved UGX49.5bn to fill 10,210 vacancies in the public health sector.

MACIS congratulates the MoH on the recent recruitment campaign to supplement Uganda's public health sector human resource base. Over the past months, MoH screened 37,303 applications to fill 10,210 health worker positions. MoH made 8,079 offers to applicants and 6,705 officers have so far reported for duty.

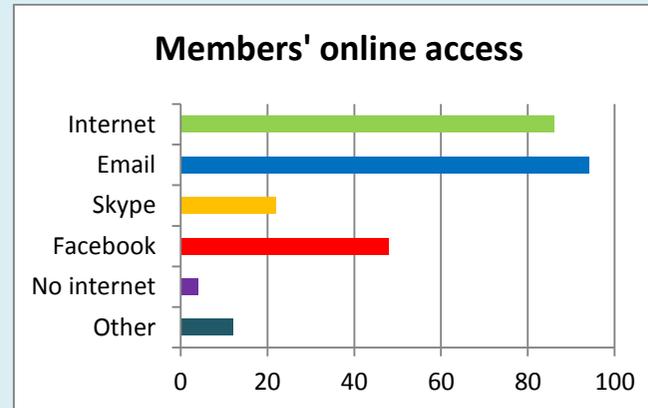
The recruitment drive is still struggling to attract adequate number of doctors to certain districts, such as Kabale, where medical staff is desperately needed. The availability of midwives and anaesthetists also remains a challenge. In the interim, the Ministry will use comprehensive nurses as midwives and try to convert them into midwives within the next three years. A second recruitment drive may be conducted to fill further positions in the health sector.

The MoH has captured extensive data from the experience of this recruitment campaign, which will inform the strategic planning of training, recruitment and retention of health workers in the future.

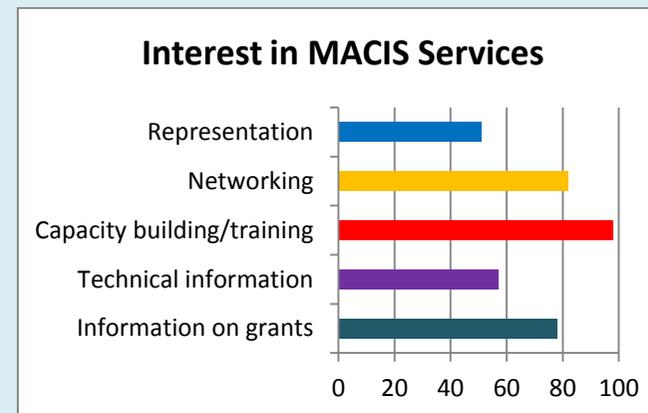
## Member Survey

Thanks to those who have responded to our communications survey. We received 51 responses by email, online and through the new MACIS membership registration forms, which equals to about a 25 per cent response rate.

As this survey was sent out to members by email, it was no surprise that 94 per cent of respondents indicated that they have access to email.



We were pleased to see that that over 90 percent of members check their emails at least once a week and 64 per cent are able to access their emails daily. Almost half of our members (48 per cent) also use Facebook and we are hoping to expand MACIS' presence to social media in the near future.



The services that MACIS members are most interested in are capacity building and training, as well as networking and information on available grants and proposals. The secretariat will ensure that we deliver these services.

Respondents also had some great ideas on how we can improve the MACIS network. Some of these are

obviously dependent on available funding but we will explore these suggestions in more detail.

We appreciate the time that you took to fill out the survey. Your answers will help MACIS to better target services to its members' needs.

## Membership Forms

My reminder is that if you haven't filled out the membership registration/renewal form, please do so and email it back to the secretariat. Even if you are an existing MACIS member, please complete the form so we can update our database with your latest contact and organisational details. The membership form is attached and can also be accessed on our website (soon to come). You can now pay your membership fees for 2013 conveniently via MTN Mobile Money on 0787 425 824 or by bank deposit to our account at Stanbic Bank (Forest Mall Branch) Account No: 014006795410. Please make any payment in the name of your organisation, not the individual.

*Together For a Healthy Tomorrow!*

*God bless!*



**Dr Patrobas Mufubenga**  
MACIS National Coordinator